

AGENDA



Thursday, February 26, 2009

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 11

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with one of the following firms: ACP VISIONING & PLANING, LTD, New York, NY (staff recommendation); WALLACE ROBERTS & TODD, LLC, Philadelphia, PA; or HNTB CORPORATION, Austin, TX to provide professional planning services for the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Austin, in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$1,300,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Mark Walters 974-7695; Rosie Truelove 974-3064; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of six (6) statements received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 16.50% MBE and 14.20% WBE subconsultant participation.

The current Comprehensive Plan of record, the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (ATCP), was developed during the 1970's and adopted in 1979. It has been amended numerous times through the adoption of Neighborhood and Transportation Plans. In 2008 it was amended through a limited update that removed obsolete policies and replaced them with current ones. Even with this most recent update, the ATCP remains a product of its time and does not address many contemporary issues facing the City such as sustainability and climate change. Also, the ATCP has lost its relevance and remains largely unknown to the majority of Austinites. The lack of a contemporary, community-based vision for the City's future has led to many "ad hoc" policy directives.

The new plan is needed to chart Austin's near, intermediate, and long-term future to preserve and enhance the community's cherished quality of life. The plan will need to address key themes currently at the center of civic debate such as growth and development, sustainability and climate change, environmental protection, neighborhood preservation, affordable housing, economic development, and local and regional mobility. Additional key themes may also emerge through the public participation process.

The new Comprehensive Plan will have two components. The first is a Vision and Policy Framework component that lays out the vision for the community and incorporates and integrates key themes to respond to the question "Where are we going?" The second component creates the ten City Charter-required elements and addresses the question "How do we get there?" The required elements are: Future land use element; Traffic circulation and mass transit element; Wastewater, solid waste, drainage and potable water element; Conservation and environmental resources element; Recreation and open space element; Housing element; Public services and facilities element that includes but not be limited to a capital improvement program; Public buildings and related facilities element; Economic element for commercial and industrial development and redevelopment; Health and human services element.

Once developed, the Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. A two-year timeline is proposed for the development of the new Comprehensive Plan. The estimated budget for these services is \$1,300,000.

This request allows for the development of a professional services agreement with the firm identified by the City Council. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease with that firm. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with one of the alternate firms identified.

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 1.70% African American, 9.50% Hispanic, 5.30% Native/Asian American and 14.20% WBE. The recommended and alternate firms provided a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and were approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 255 firms on September 30, 2008. The RFQ was obtained by 82 firms, and five firms submitted qualification statements. None of the firms were certified MBE/WBE firms. Of the five firms evaluated, three firms were short-listed and interviewed. The short-listed firms made presentations to the Austin City Council on February 12, 2008. Interviewing of the short-listed firms results in the following staff recommendation: ACP VISIONING & PLANING, LTD, New York, NY; WALLACE ROBERTS & TODD, LLC, Philadelphia, PA (First Alternate); or HNTB CORPORATION, Austin, TX (Second Alternate).